

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**APPLICANT:** M. MATSUSHITA et al.  
**U.S.S.N.:** Not Yet Known **GROUP ART UNIT:** Not Yet Known  
**FILED:** Herewith **EXAMINER:** Not Yet Known  
**FOR:** IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

\*\*\*\*\*  
**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," Express Mail Label No. **ER236679355US** addressed to: **MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on January 27, 2004.

By: Elena Misiaszek  
Elena Misiaszek

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**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicant(s) hereby submit(s) an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. **LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION**

The patents, publications or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on PTO-1449, attached hereto. The citation of this information by Applicant(s) is not necessarily an admission that the information (1) qualifies as prior art by virtue of its date of publication/availability, and/or that (2) the information is relevant to the patentability of the claims of this application.

II. COPIES

- a.   X   Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.
- b.        This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, on the earlier filing date of prior application Serial No.       , filed on       . The following references were submitted to, and/or cited by, the Office in the prior application (s) and, therefore, are not required to be provided in this application.

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE  
(check at least one box)

- a.        Except as may be indicated below in (b), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language or were cited in an English language Search Report, a copy of which is attached hereto (concise explanation not required).
- b.   X   A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:

An English language abstract and a concise explanation of relevance is attached for each of the Japanese language references that are identified on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 as "BA," "BB," "BC," "BD" and "BE." For reference "BA," the abstract indicates the "Purpose" and "Constitution" of the reference, and for references "BB," "BC," "BD," and "BE," the abstract indicates the "Problem to be solved" and the "Solution" of the reference.

Also, for references "BD" and "BE," a partial translation is provided in addition to the English language abstract.

- c.        The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration:

**FEES**

IV. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)  
(check one box)

- a.   X   within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (1). No fee or certification is required.
- b.        within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (2). No fee or certification is required.
- c.        Before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below, or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):

before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (2)).

- a.        No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- or
- b.        See the certification below. No fee is required.

VI. STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

The undersigned hereby states that

- a.        each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
- b.        no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

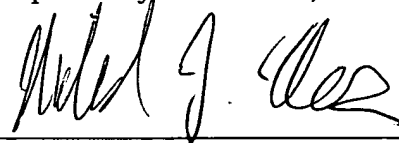
c. \_\_\_\_\_ Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A triplicate copy of this paper is attached.

  X   No fee is required.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule, with a petition if necessary, and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: January 27, 2004

By:

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<b>FORM PTO-1449</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>			<b>DOCKET NO.:</b> 60710 (70904)		<b>SERIAL NO.:</b> Not Yet Known		
			<b>APPLICANT(S):</b> M. MATSUSHITA et al.				
			<b>FILING DATE:</b> Herewith		<b>GROUP NO.:</b> Not Yet Known		
<b>UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
<b>EXAM. INITIALS</b>		<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>SUB-CLASS</b>	<b>FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE</b>
	AA	10/662,354		M. MATSUSHITA ET AL.			09/16/03
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
		<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>SUB-CLASS</b>	<b>TRANSLATION YES/NO</b>
	BA	03-288654	12/18/91	JAPAN	B41J	2/175	Yes (Abstract)
	BB	2002-036557	02/05/02	JAPAN	B41J	2/05	Yes (Abstract)
	BC	2002-067353	03/05/02	JAPAN	B41J	2/175	Yes (Abstract)
	BD	10-278300	10/20/98	JAPAN	B41J	2/175	Yes (Abstract and partial English translation)
	BE	09-240019	09/16/97	JAPAN	B41J	2/175	Yes (Abstract and partial English translation)
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (INCLUDING AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC.)</b>							
	CA						
<b>EXAMINER:</b>					<b>DATE:</b>		